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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,148	10/21/2003	Xiang Cao		6618

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WEI TE CHUNG  
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EXAMINER

ZARROLI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,148

Applicant(s)

CAO, XIANG

Examiner

Michael C. Zarroli

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: Duplicate “wherein.” Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 9 objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase “from a commonly surface” is grammatically awkward. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, in public use, or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Chang.

Chang discloses (col. 1 line 64) an electrical connector mounted on a printed circuit board (PCB), the electrical connector comprising: an insulative housing (1) defining a plurality of channels (13), a plurality of contacts (24) partially received in the housing, and a spacer (3) engaged with the housing, the spacer comprising a

base and defining a plurality of passageways (311) through the base; wherein each of the contacts extends from the housing via a corresponding channel (13) and electrically connects to the PCB through a corresponding passageway (311) of the spacer.

Regarding claim 2 Chang discloses that the spacer defines a plurality of island platforms respectively defining the passageways (unnumbered fig. 1).

Regarding claims 3-7 Chang discloses that the base further defines a pair of fastening arms (321) depending from opposite sides and, a pair of guiding blocks (322) also extending from the opposite sides thereof. The fastening arms comprise a hook at a distal end and, the housing defines a pair of fastening slots (171) corresponding to the fastening arms of the spacer. Chang also discloses that the housing further defines a pair of guiding slots (172) corresponding to the guiding blocks of the spacer.

5. Claims 9-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Olson et al.

Olson discloses an electrical connector (title) comprising: an insulative housing (88) defining a plurality of channels (113); plurality of contacts (92) received in the corresponding channels, respectively, each of said contacts defining a tail portion

in a rear portion of the housing (figures 10-11); a plurality of dividers (102) formed in the rear portion of the housing to isolate the tail portion of each of said contacts; a spacer (90) attached to the housing and defining a plurality of island platforms (fig. 13 especially figures 13c-13d) extending from a common surface thereof, the tail portions of the contacts extending through the corresponding platforms, respectively (fig. 8). Pluralities of intertwined troughs are formed among said island platforms, and some of said troughs are vertically aligned with the corresponding dividers, respectively (figures 13a, 13c, 13d).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claim 8 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form **including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.**

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The hooking slots perpendicular to the fastening slots and receiving the hooks of the fastening arms. Some more structure of the troughs especially as shown in figure 2 could be added to claim 10 to make it allowable in combination with its independent claim.

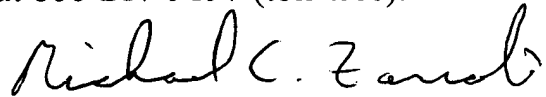
***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wu (6354875) teaches a spacer. Wu (US2004/0029428) teaches a spacer with fastening hooks and guide blocks. Xu teaches a spacer (5) with fastening hooks and guide blocks as well as platforms. Lai et al teaches a spacer with platforms.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Michael C. Zarroli  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

MCZ  
MCZ